MARVEL
EDGE
DEC·348
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
DIRECT EDITION
34811
$1.95 US/ $2.75 CAN

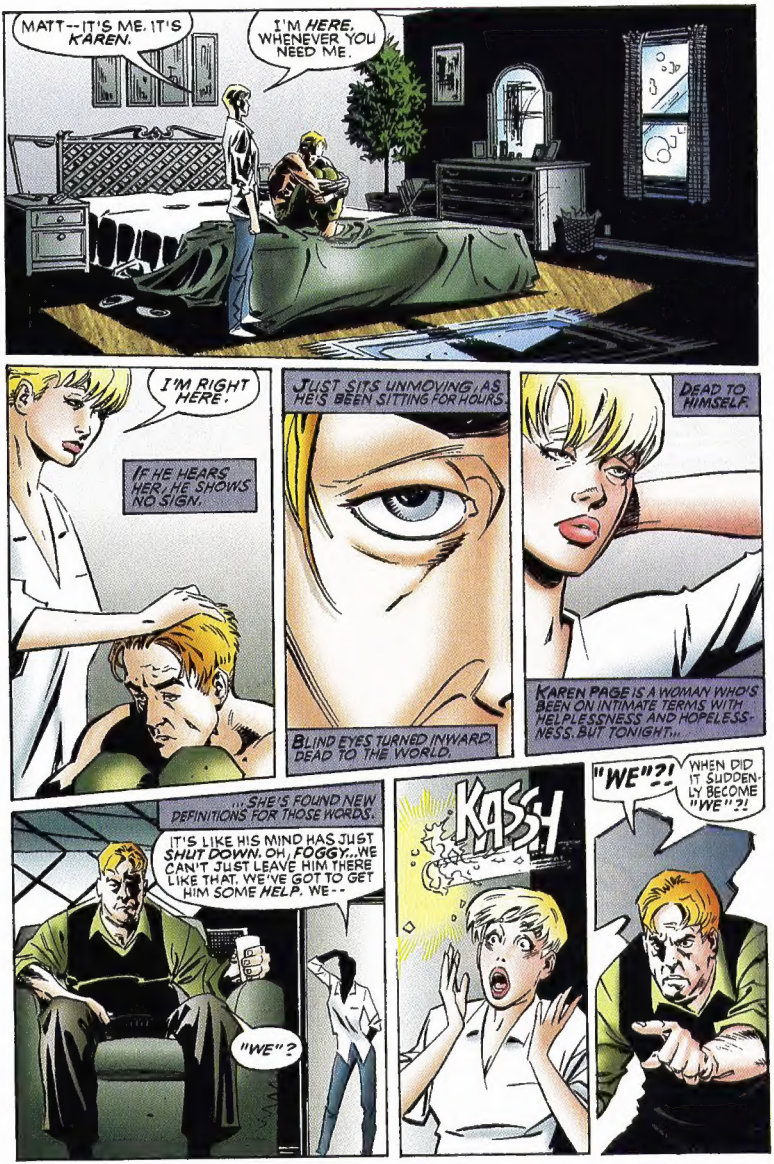
STAN LEE PRESENTS

DAREDEVIL IN PURGATORIO

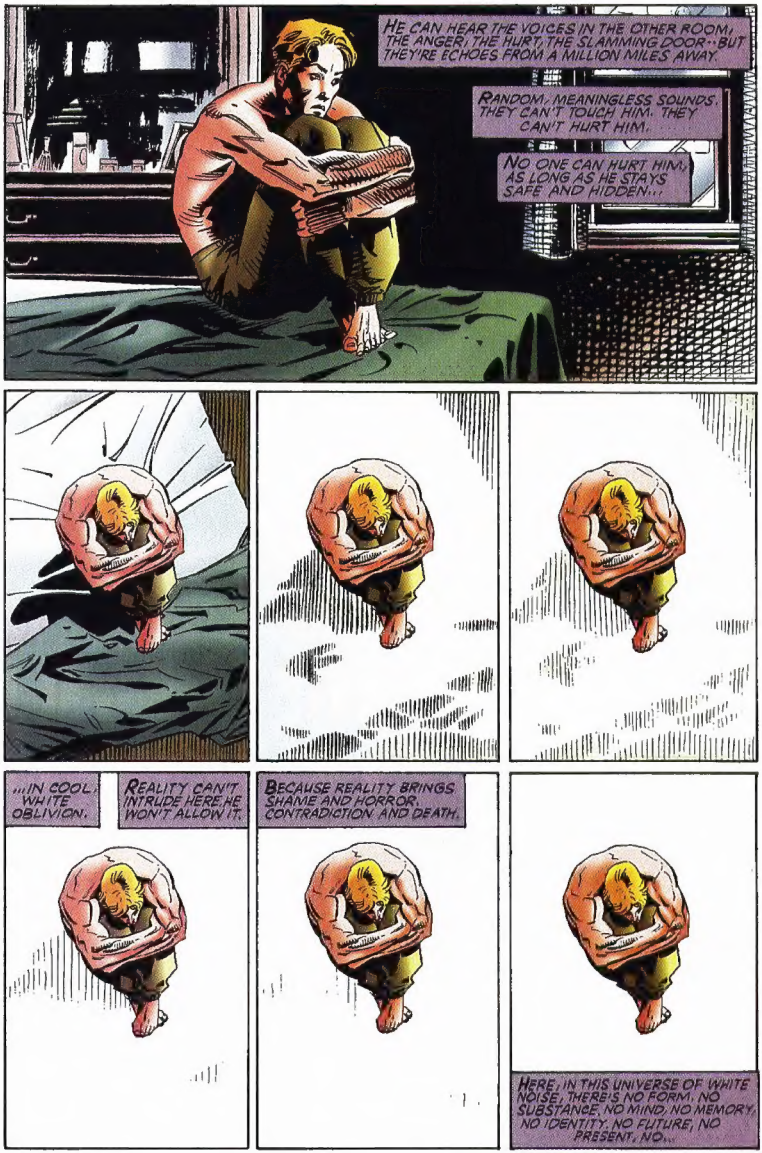
J.M. DeMatteis · WRITER
Cary Nord · GUEST PENCILER
Bill Reinhold · INKER
Al Higgins · LETTERER
Christie Scheele · COLORIST
Malibu · COMPUTER COLOR
James Felder · EDITOR
Bobbie Chase · ED. IN CHIEF

DAREDEVIL® Vol. 1, No. 348, January, 1996. (ISSN #0279-8271) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Gerard Calabrese, President, Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1995 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.75 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $23.40, Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. Foreign $35.40. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. DAREDEVIL (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO DAREDEVIL, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE #(203) 743-5331. Printed in the USA.**

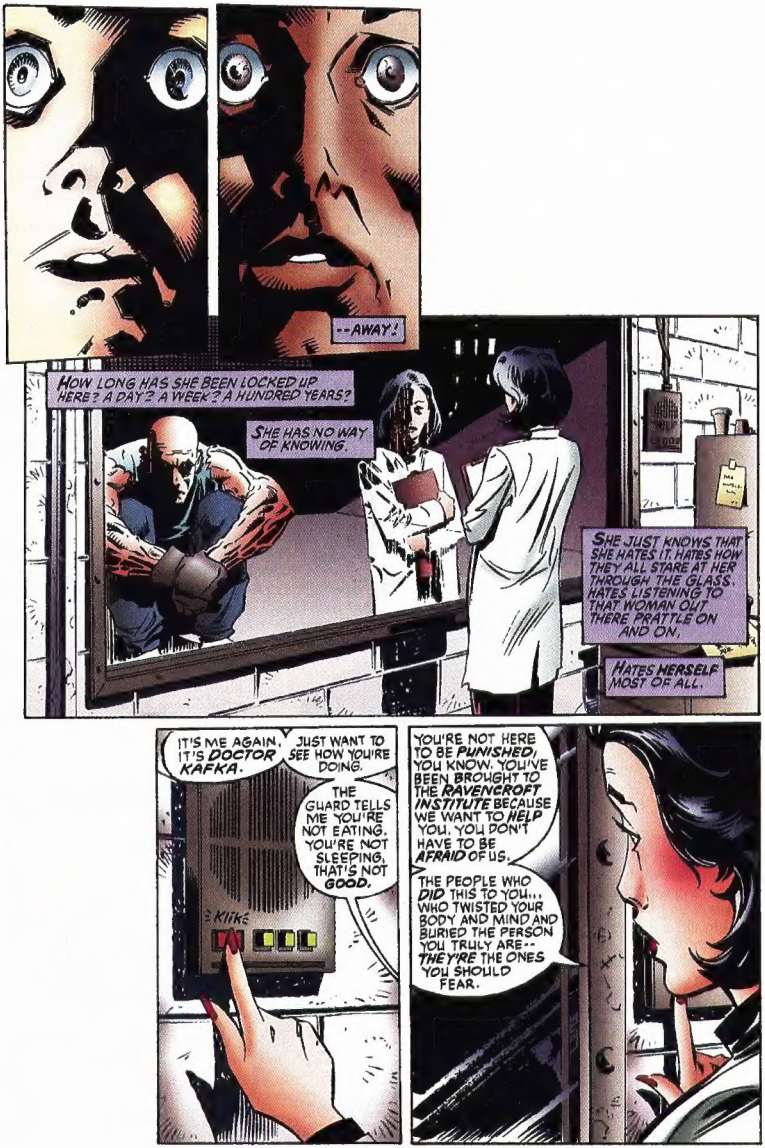
MATT...?


MATT--IT'S ME. IT'S KAREN.
I'M HERE, WHENEVER YOU NEED ME.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
IF HE HEARS HER, HE SHOWS NO SIGN.
JUST SITS UNMOVING, AS HE'S BEEN SITTING FOR HOURS.
BLIND EYES TURNED INWARD. DEAD TO THE WORLD.
DEAD TO HIMSELF.
KAREN PAGE IS A WOMAN WHO'S BEEN ON INTIMATE TERMS WITH HELPLESSNESS AND HOPELESSNESS. BUT TONIGHT...
SHE'S FOUND NEW DEFINITIONS FOR THOSE WORDS.
IT'S LIKE HIS MIND HAS JUST SHUT DOWN. OH, FOGGY...WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM THERE LIKE THAT. WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM SOME HELP. WE--
"WE"?
KASSH
"WE"?!
WHEN DID IT SUDDENLY BECOME "WE"?!

ALL THESE YEARS YOU KEPT ME OUT OF IT... KEPT YOUR LITTLE SECRETS... YOU AND MATT BOTH!
YOU KNEW, KAREN!
YOU KNEW HE WAS DAREDEVIL.
AND YOU NEVER TRUSTED ME WITH THE TRUTH... ME, HIS BEST FRIEND.
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME--
--EVEN WHEN WE THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!
OR DID YOU KNOW THAT WAS A LIE, TOO? SURE, I'LL BET YOU DID!
I SWEAR TO GOD I DI--
YOU KNEW ALL ABOUT "JACK BATLIN"--AND YOU KEPT ON LYING TO STUPID OLD FOGGY, RIGHT?
RIGHT?!
DON'T YOU DARE--
SWAK
--TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!
I LOVED MATT! I BURIED HIM! I MOURNED HIM!
I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT DAREDEVIL BECAUSE THAT'S HOW MATT WANTED IT! AND IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT--
--TAKE IT UP WITH HIM!
SLAM

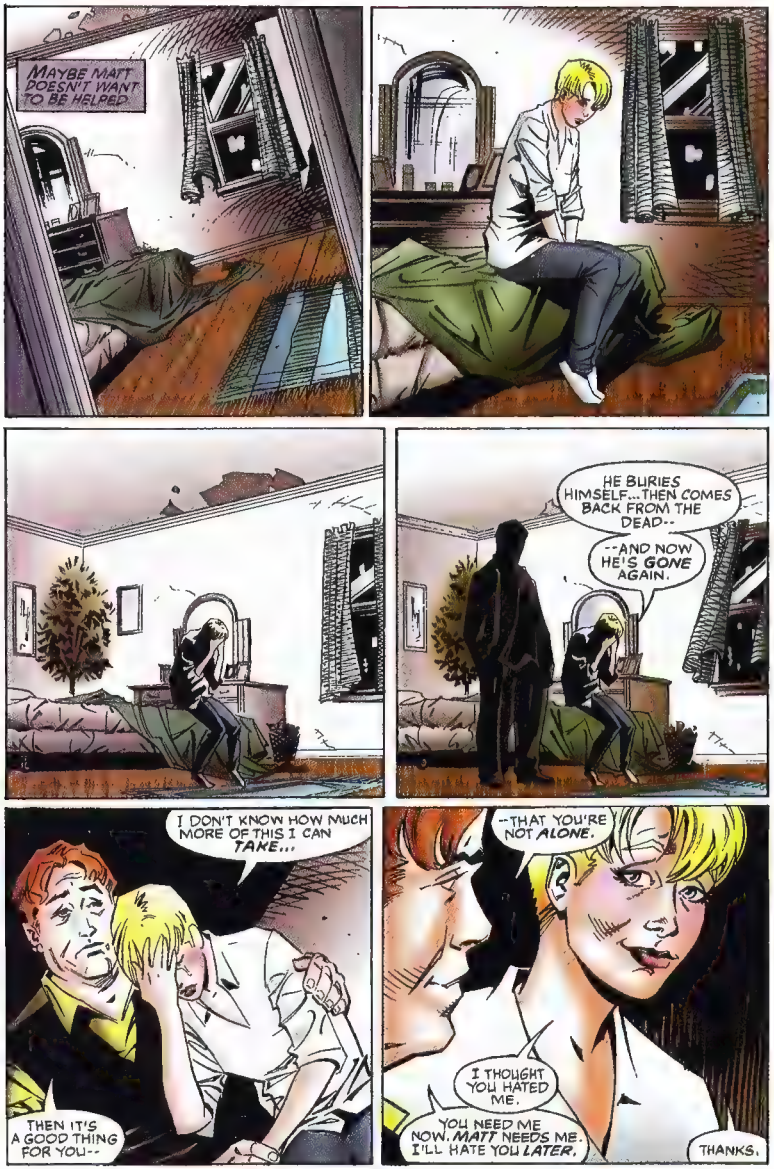

HE CAN HEAR THE VOICES IN THE OTHER ROOM, THE ANGER, THE HURT, THE SLAMMING DOOR.. BUT THEY'RE ECHOES FROM A MILLION MILES AWAY.
RANDOM, MEANINGLESS SOUNDS. THEY CAN'T TOUCH HIM. THEY CAN'T HURT HIM.
NO ONE CAN HURT HIM, AS LONG AS HE STAYS SAFE AND HIDDEN...
...IN COOL, WHITE OBLIVION.
REALITY CAN'T INTRUDE HERE. HE WON'T ALLOW IT.
BECAUSE REALITY BRINGS SHAME AND HORROR, CONTRADICTION AND DEATH.
HERE, IN THIS UNIVERSE OF WHITE NOISE, THERE'S NO FORM, NO SUBSTANCE, NO MIND, NO MEMORY, NO IDENTITY, NO FUTURE, NO PRESENT, NO...

...PAST?
A RUSH OF CHEAP PERFUME FILLS HIS NOSTRILS...
...AND HE NEARLY GAGS.
HE'S OVERWHELMED BY THE STINK OF SWEAT AND SEX.
HOW DID THEY GET HERE, THESE WOMEN?
HOW DID THEY JUMP THE BARRIERS FROM THE WORLD OUTSIDE? AND WHY ARE THEY BEATING HIM, CLAWING AT HIM, CURSING HIM?
THE MASK.
IT'S SUFFOCATING HIM.
THEY'RE SUFFOCATING HIM.
HE'S GOT TO GET AWAY!
HE'S GOT TO GET


--AWAY!
HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN LOCKED UP HERE? A DAY? A WEEK? A HUNDRED YEARS?
SHE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING.
SHE JUST KNOWS THAT SHE HATES IT. HATES HOW THEY ALL STARE AT HER THROUGH THE GLASS. HATES LISTENING TO THAT WOMAN OUT THERE PRATTLE ON AND ON.
HATES HERSELF MOST OF ALL.
IT'S ME AGAIN, IT'S DOCTOR KAFKA.
JUST WANT TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING.
THE GUARD TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT EATING. YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING. THAT'S NOT GOOD.
KLIKE
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO BE PUNISHED, YOU KNOW. YOU'VE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE BECAUSE WE WANT TO HELP YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF US.
THE PEOPLE WHO DID THIS TO YOU... WHO TWISTED YOUR BODY AND MIND AND BURIED THE PERSON YOU TRULY ARE-- THEY'RE THE ONES YOU SHOULD FEAR.

THE TEST RESULTS CAME BACK. WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE NOW. NOT SOME CRAZED SERIAL KILLER-- BUT A GENTLE,DECENT WOMAN NAMED MARTHA PATERSON.
YOU'RE TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD. YOU'RE FROM MADISON, WISCONSIN. NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT.
NOT THE MEMORY BLOCKS THEY IMPLANTED. NOT THE MUSCLE GRAFTS AND HORMONE TREATMENTS.
AND NOW THAT WE KNOW THE TRUTH... WE CAN START WORKING TOWARD RESTORING YOU, CUTTING THROUGH THE LAYERS OF LIES AND--
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, MARTHA?
N-N-NO...
NOT A WOMAN.
NOT A VICTIM.
NOT WEAK AND HELPLESS.

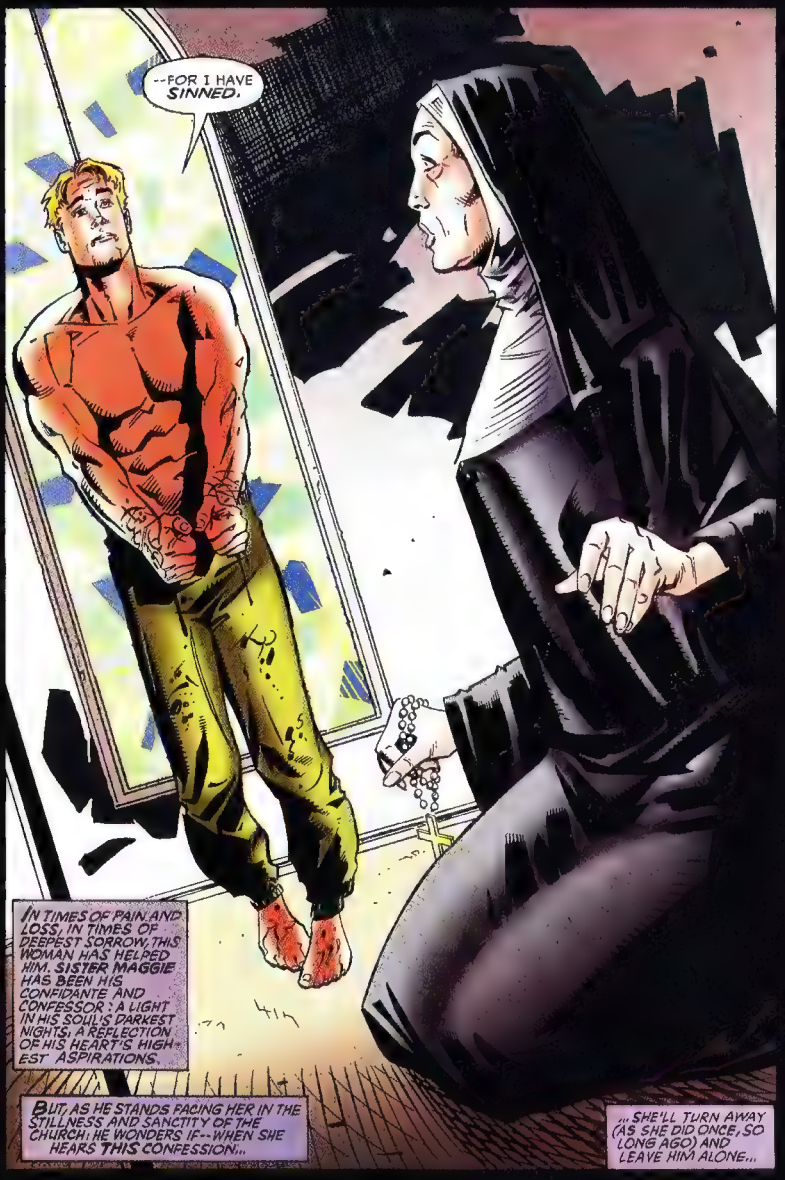
NOT MARTHA!
TAMM
CALL
ME
SIR!
BOOM
TWICE AROUND THE BLOCK DIDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
SHE'S STILL TENSE. SHE'S STILL ANGRY.
AND SHE STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT MATT.
THIS ISN'T A VICTORIAN NOVEL. SHE CAN'T KEEP HIM LOCKED AWAY IN HER BEDROOM LIKE MR. ROCHESTER'S FIRST WIFE.
AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO SHE CAN TRUST TO HELP HIM.
THEN SHE REALIZES THAT THERE'S SOMETHING SHE NEVER CONSIDERED.


MAYBE MATT DOESN'T WANT TO BE HELPED.
HE BURIES HIMSELF...THEN COMES BACK FROM THE DEAD--
--AND NOW HE'S GONE AGAIN.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE...
THEN IT'S A GOOD THING FOR YOU--
--THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME.
YOU NEED ME NOW. MATT NEEDS ME. I'LL HATE YOU LATER.
THANKS.

I THINK?
NOT SAFE ANYWHERE.
NOT IN THE WHITE NOISE.
NOT IN THE GRAY CITY
NOT IN MURDOCK'S SKIN.
OR BATLIN'S.
NOT IN YELLOW AND BLACK.
NOT IN THE DEVIL'S RED.
THE PAST CAN GET YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, WHERE YOU HIDE.
NO MAN CAN ESCAPE...

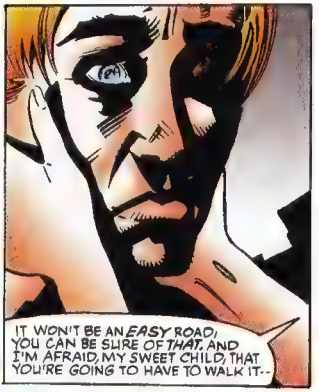
UNIVERSAL CHURCH SUPPLIES
...HIS SINS.
KRAAAAAAAAASH

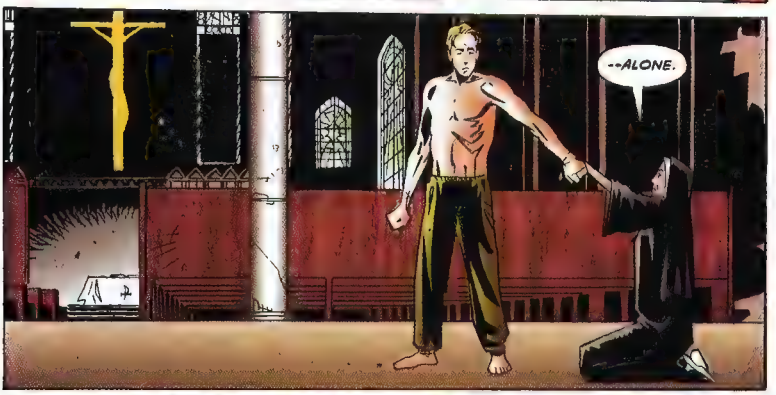
FORGIVE ME, MOTHER--

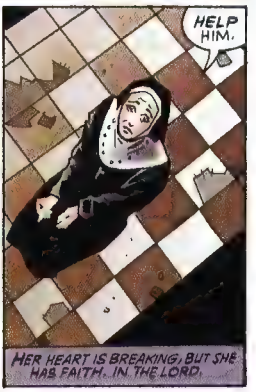

--FOR I HAVE SINNED.
IN TIMES OF PAIN AND LOSS, IN TIMES OF DEEPEST SORROW, THIS WOMAN HAS HELPED HIM. SISTER MAGGIE HAS BEEN HIS CONFIDANTE AND CONFESSOR: A LIGHT IN HIS SOUL'S DARKEST NIGHTS, A REFLECTION OF HIS HEART'S HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS.
BUT, AS HE STANDS FACING HER IN THE STILLNESS AND SANCTITY OF THE CHURCH, HE WONDERS IF--WHEN SHE HEARS THIS CONFESSION...
...SHE'LL TURN AWAY (AS SHE DID ONCE, SO LONG AGO) AND LEAVE HIM ALONE...

...IN THE BLIND DARKNESS.
THE SWIFTNESS WITH WHICH SHE OPENS HER ARMS TO HIM, THE SOFT ACCEPTANCE IN HER VOICE AS SHE CALLS HIS NAME, MAKES IT CLEAR TO MATT THAT NO DARKNESS IS SO GREAT, NO SIN SO HORRIBLE...
...THAT SHE WOULD EVER TURN AWAY FROM HIM AGAIN.
SO HE TELLS HER... ABOUT THE GIRL WHO FELL FROM THE WINDOW.
NO, THE GIRL HE PUSHED--HOWEVER INADVERTENTLY--
HE WAS YOUNG, BURNING WITH RAGE AND VINDICTIVENESS. HIS FATHER HAD BEEN BRUTALLY MURDERED... AND HE WANTED THE MONSTERS WHO'D DONE IT TO PAY.
AND THEY DID. BUT SHE PAID, TOO, JUST AS HE'S BEEN PAYING...
SHOW ME THE WAY, MAGGIE.
WIPE THE BLOOD OFF MY HANDS.
...EVER SINCE.
FOR SO LONG... I COULDN'T THINK ABOUT IT... PUSHED IT DOWN-- PUSHED IT AWAY.
IGNORED IT. DENIED IT.
BUT I CAN'T DENY THIS ANY MORE.

I CAN LOVE YOU, MATTHEW--AND HEAVEN KNOWS I ALWAYS WILL--
--BUT IT'S NOT IN MY POWER TO FORGIVE YOU.
NOT ME. NOT EVEN THE PRIESTS.
ONLY GOD CAN DO IT. AND HE WILL. HE'LL SHOW YOU YOUR ROAD TO ATONEMENT.

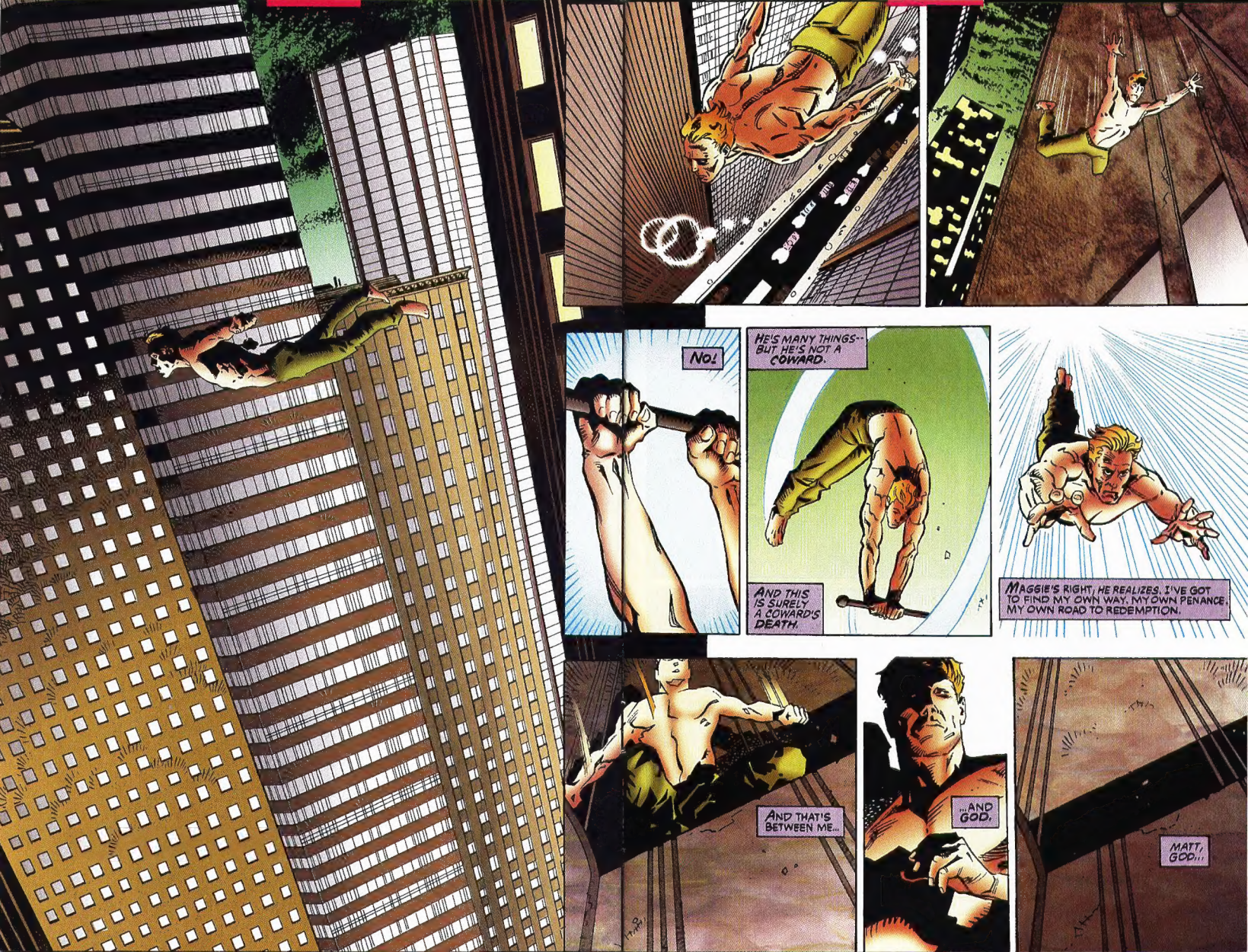

IT WON'T BE AN EASY ROAD, YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT. AND I'M AFRAID, MY SWEET CHILD, THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WALK IT--


--ALONE.

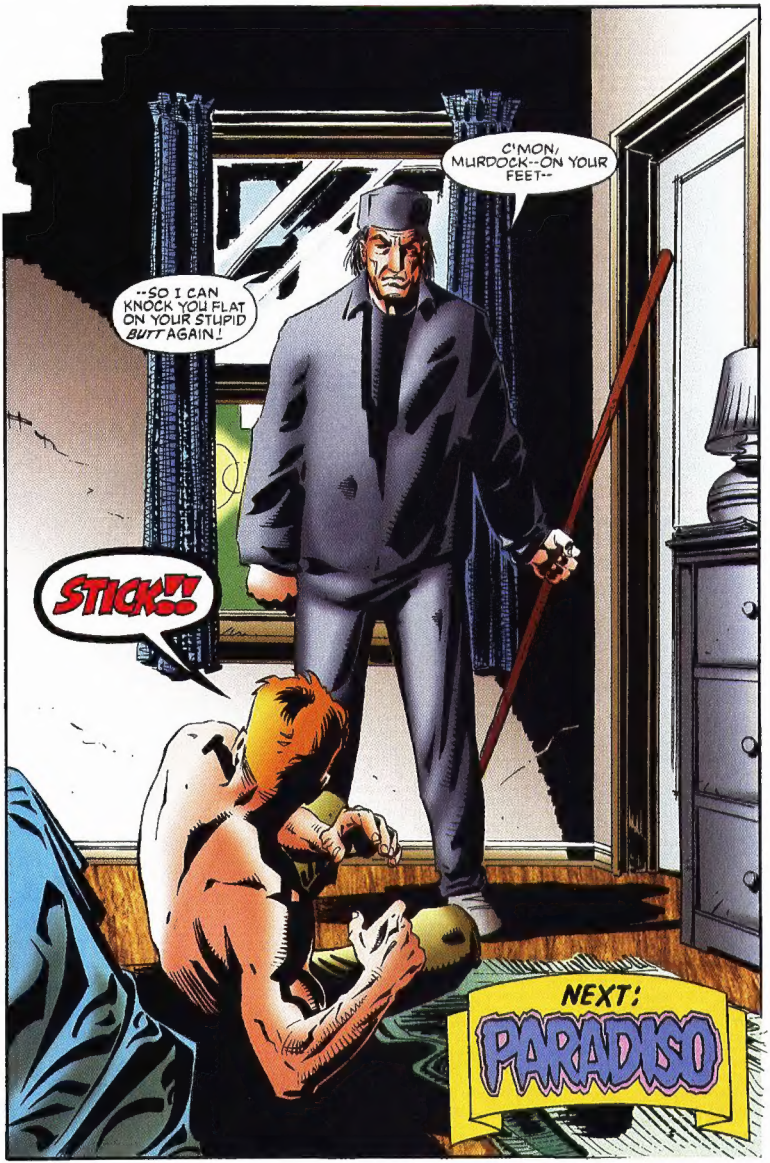

HELP HIM.
HER HEART IS BREAKING, BUT SHE HAS FAITH. IN THE LORD.

AND IN MATT,
HE MAY DOUBT HIMSELF, DOUBT HIS OWN INNER STRENGTH, HIS INHERENT DECENCY.
BUT SHE KNOWS HIM, PERHAPS BETTER THAN HE KNOWS HIMSELF; AND SHE BELIEVES, TO THE BOTTOM OF HER SOUL,...
...THAT HE'LL RISE UP FROM THIS PERSONAL HELL LIKE AN ANGEL.
AND HE'LL FLY.
WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR HER, HE WONDERS, AS SHE FELL? WAS SHE AFRAID? OR DID SHE FIND SOME PEACE, SOME INEFFABLE CALM, AS SHE TUMBLED DOWN, SO FAR DOWN...
...INTO COOL, WHITE OBLIVION.
TOO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT. TOO MUCH TO BEAR, NOT JUST THE GIRL, BUT ALL OF IT.
A LIFETIME OF HYPOCRISY--MASKS AND LIES AND BROKEN PROMISES.
MY WHOLE LIFE, HE REALIZES, HAS BROUGHT ME HERE: TO THE EDGE. AND IT'S TIME AT LONG LAST.

...TO GO OVER IT!


NO!
HE'S MANY THINGS--BUT HE'S NOT A COWARD.
AND THIS IS SURELY A COWARD'S DEATH.
MAGGIE'S RIGHT, HE REALIZES. I'VE GOT TO FIND MY OWN WAY, MY OWN PENANCE, MY OWN ROAD TO REDEMPTION.
AND THAT'S BETWEEN ME...
...AND GOD.
MATT, GOD...

...AND PERHAPS ONE OTHER PERSON.
KAREN...?
KAREN, I'M BACK--AND I'VE GOT TO TALK TO--
SKUNKT
SHRAKK
CHUDD
WHOT


C'MON, MURDOCK--ON YOUR FEET--
--SO I CAN KNOCK YOU FLAT ON YOUR STUPID BUTT AGAIN!
STICK!!
NEXT:
PARADISO

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

C/O MARVEL COMICS, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Letters for publication must include your name and address, although we will withhold that information upon request.

JAMES "PROFESSOR" FELDER EDITOR

BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I had to write...the cover alone made me giddy...is Daredevil...the real Daredevil...returning?

I pray it is so — I remember the days he had a personality! He was one of the few heroes left who fought for justice, not necessarily just stopping the bad guy of the week. It was refreshing to have a hero with morals, with scruples! It was his struggle with duality (vigilante and upholder of the law) that made the book fresh and interesting.

Then came the "Fall From Grace" storyline...

I am not going to begin to express the disgust that I felt when I found out that Daredevil was going "gritty" like every other super hero that seems to grace a comic these days. Everybody was suddenly becoming the Punisher — how dull! Give me a hero with his own unique personality like Matt Murdock, not Jack Batlin. Didn't Murdock learn that garbage didn't work way back in issue #227-233 when the Kingpin took away that part of him that was Matt Murdock? He needs the lawyer side of his identity just as much as he needs the "super hero" to stop injustice!

So, if you are looking to see how people will react to the return of the old Daredevil...chalk up one huge yes!!! Especially with J. M. DeMatteis at the writing helm and Ron Wagner as penciler, I'll be here next month with bells on as long as you keep this going! Please don't disappoint me!

Troy Carlson
2012 Wakefield Crescent
Goshen, IN 46526

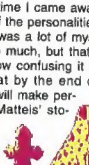
We're going to try, Troy...not to disappoint you, that is!

Dear Devil's Advocate,

Mr. DeMatteis has only been on board for two issues and already Daredevil is questioning the fundamentals of being a hero. DD's having an identity crisis. He's feeling guilt over Glorianna's death, there's a new bad guy named Sir and someone else is running around in DD's old threads. Wow.

One by one Mr. DeMatteis visited crucial cast members — Karen, Foggy, the aforementioned Sir, and "Jack Batlin" — and each time I came away with a firmer grasp of the personalities beneath. There was a lot of mystery here, almost too much, but that's okay. No matter how confusing it is now, I'm certain that by the end of "Inferno" everything will make perfect sense. Mr. DeMatteis' stories always do.

Mark J. Kiewlak
316 West Main Street
Nanticoke, PA 18634



As you can see, Mark, things are starting to all come together and we're pretty excited here at Radar Central over the excitement planned for Daredevil's big 350th double-sized issue. "Big" Ron Wagner and "Be-Bop" Bill Reinhold will be back in fine form for that historic extravaganza. And be careful about calling Sir a bad guy...

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I suppose it is a bit redundant to say, but I've seen DAREDEVIL go through so many changes. What's being done to the character these days has me a bit on edge, though. That is not a bad thing necessarily. It's good to get your fur ruffled occasionally. My reservation about the current storyline mainly is that it seems to be bringing the character back to the beginning of his career, at least in a manner of speaking. This has been done several times before. While he should never forget his beginnings, he shouldn't have to backtrack as often as he does either. Other than that and the lack of any kind of regular writer, I don't have any more complaints.

I was pleased to see that J. M. DeMatteis is taking over the regular writing duties on this title. I've read many things he's worked on and always found them very interesting. I will say that I'm glad to see "Alan Smithee" has left the title. While this is not a personal attack, it seemed obvious to me that "Alan Smithee" didn't have a good hold on the character.

In issue #345 I was extremely pleased to see the return of the red suit. The armor is nice and should probably be used in extreme cases, but the red costume is such an icon of DD. One of the things that I liked so much about this character was that Matt Murdock was never a mutant (ugh!) or used gimmicks that are usually more idiotic than they are clever. While his radar sense might make him superpowered, for the most part he is simply a man doing what he feels is right. He is also a man of contradiction. While firmly believing in the law he breaks it by becoming a vigilante. His sense of compassion is one of the many things that make him a hero. The appearance of the original costume was indeed a delightful surprise even if it was (as I suspect) Bullseye wearing it.

Well, I suppose that's all for now. Keep up the great work.
Miles E. Crowson
800 Beauford Place Apt. #15
Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356

Thanks, Miles. No Bullseye, but check out PUNISHER #1 for an update on him.

And now a message to all readers: While we are ecstatic here at Radar Central with the intelligence and insight of the mail we've been receiving (they are without a doubt a cut above the normal Marvel mail), they are way too long. We'd prefer if you'd make your letters shorter than to have us faced with the task of cutting what we see is good stuff! Have mercy, O Mellow Ones!

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: DAREDEVIL
2. Publication No.: 148-440
3. Date of Filing: October 1, 1995
4. Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
5. No. of issues published annually: 12
6. Annual subscription price: $23.40/12 issues
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
8. Complete address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: Same.
9. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Editor: James Felder, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Managing Editor: N/A.
10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) Approximately 80% of the Common Stock of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. is owned indirectly through wholly-owned subsidiaries by Mafco Holdings Inc., 35 East 62nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. The balance of Marvel's Common Stock is publicly owned. The shares of Marvel's Common Stock are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange.
11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: N/A
12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes. (Check one.) ✓ Has not changed during preceding 12 months. ✓ Has changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)
13. Publication Name: DAREDEVIL
14. Issue date for circulation date below: 15.
EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION.
A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 110,056. Actual no. of single issue nearest to filing date: 99,081.
B. Paid and/or requested Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 82,820. Actual no. copies single issue nearest to filing date: 59,765. 2) Paid or requested mail subscriptions: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 1,833. Actual no. copies single issue nearest to filing date: 61,285.
C. Total Paid and/or requested Circulation (sum of 15B(1) and 15B(2)): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 84,453. Actual no. copies single issue nearest to filing date: 61,265.
D. Free Distribution by mail (samples, complimentary, and other free): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 750. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 750.
E. Free distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 0. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 0.
F. Total Free Distribution (sum of 15D and 15E): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 750. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 750.
G. Total distribution (sum of 15C and 15F): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 85,203. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 62,015.
H. Copies Not Distributed: 1) Office use, leftovers, spoiled: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 500. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 500. 2) Return from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 44,353. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 36,566.
I. Total (sum of 15G, 15H(1), and 15H(2): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 110,056. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 99,081.
Percent paid and/or requested circulation (15C/15G x 100): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 99. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 99.
16. This statement of ownership will be printed in the January issue of this publication.
17. Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner: Mary Pope, Customer Service Coordinator 10/1/95.
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

NEXT ISSUE:

The return of Stick!

What more do you want — statements of ownership?! Sh-Later!